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Items 74 and 81 of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Letter dated 21 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of a statement made on 17 June 2000 by V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use during War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and on Their Destruction (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under items 74 and 81 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement made by the President of the Russian Federation, V. V. Putin, on 17 June 2000

The international community is celebrating two important events this year — the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use during War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (Geneva Protocol of 1925) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and on Their Destruction.

These multilateral instruments play an important role in the international security system. Our country unreservedly subscribes to the provisions and principles contained therein. On 22 May 2000, a draft federal law was submitted to the State Duma concerning the withdrawal of the reservations made by the Soviet Union in 1928 concerning the Geneva Protocol.

We trust that the other States parties will also rigorously implement the provisions of these instruments.

The Russian Federation, as a depositary country, is resolutely in favour of the establishment of an effective mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and on Their Destruction and is actively involved in the negotiations on the elaboration of a protocol with a view to strengthening and improving the Convention.